

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 06BEIRUT2413, TFLE01: INCENSED BY ISRAELI TARGETING OF LAF,

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06BEIRUT2413**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">06BEIRUT2413</a>	<a href="#">2006-07-18 16:26</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">SECRET//NOFORN</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Beirut</a>

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SUBJECT: TFLE01: INCENSED BY ISRAELI TARGETING OF LAF,  
FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORRIES THAT ENEMIES OF LEBANESE  
SOVEREIGNTY WILL SPLIT FRANCE AND UNITED STATES

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Classified By: Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

#### SUMMARY

¶1. (S/NF) While acknowledging that there was something not quite right about the activities at the Jamhour military base, French Ambassador Emie described recent Israeli strikes on Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) facilities as "unbelievable." If the Israeli campaign was going to continue along these lines, it was all the more reason to evacuate French nationals from Lebanon, he said. While the "March 14" coalition appears to have pinned its hopes on the Israelis clipping Hizballah's wings, Emie doubted that this campaign could do it. He expressed foreboding of Hizballah raising its prestige further with more rocket attacks on Israel, while the enemies of Lebanese sovereignty managed to split the United States and France in the UN Security Council. He predicted that, unless the UNSC could react to the growing crisis soon, France would "take its own initiatives" in the Council, which even Emie admitted would be a victory for Hizballah and Syria. End summary.

DESTROY THE ARMY, DESTROY THE STATE

¶2. (S/NF) In a brief call that the Ambassador made on French Ambassador Bernard Emie on the afternoon of July 18, Emie described that morning's Israeli attack on an LAF engineering unit in Jamhour (near the Defense Ministry) as "unbelievable." Israel needed to be told clearly that "if you destroy the army, you destroy the state," he said. "Do they want to give the country to Iran, Syria, Hizballah?" Emie expressed deep concern that the LAF, which had for the most part not responded to Israeli attacks, would be encouraged to side with Hizballah.

¶3. (S/NF) Emie said he had spoken earlier that day with a "shocked" LAF commander, General Michel Suleiman. Suleiman, who was "shaken but very reasonable," had told Emie that the LAF would not fire any shots in anger unless it was attacked again. The Ambassador told Emie that there was some information that the personnel or unit in question had questionable activities and might have facilitated Hizballah attacks. Emie agreed there was "something fishy" about Jamhour, but he nevertheless thought that the risks to Lebanon were too great for additional attacks against the LAF.

#### EVACUATION CONCERNS

¶4. (S/NF) If the Israeli air campaign continued along the same lines as seen earlier today, Emie continued, there was all the more reason to evacuate from Lebanon, and fast. He was "very worried" about the security environment for large-scale evacuations if more Israeli strikes on civilians, infrastructure, and the LAF took place. "They will shoot at us," he said.

¶5. (S/NF) Emie agreed with the Ambassador that an immediate cease-fire would leave Hizballah as the winner. This would be "a disaster," he said, but it would at least give the Lebanese people a breathing space. While the "March 14" coalition led by Saad Hariri appears to want Israel to "do the dirty work" when it comes to disarming Hizballah, the Israeli campaign, should it continue along the same lines, would not succeed in doing so. At the same time, Hizballah's ability to bombard Israel with its own rockets only raised its prestige further. The future was frightening, Emie said.

DANGER OF U.S.-FRENCH SPLIT ON UNSC

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16. (S/NF) Emie expected France, in the "days to come," to take the initiative in the UN Security Council for a resolution on the current situation. He was extremely concerned about the low prospects that the United States and France would be able to reach agreement on such a resolution. It would be a "wonderful victory" for the enemies of Lebanese sovereignty if they managed to divide the United

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States and France over Lebanon, Emie said.  
FELTMAN